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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 6 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 24 and 31 October 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 24-31 October 1999

1. In the northern region 55 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 25 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 19 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho, Amadiyah and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 27 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Rawanduz, Baibo and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1100 hours on 28 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Mosul, Tall Afar and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1305 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 327 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0640 hours on 24 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft and overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman and Ushbayjah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0935 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0635 hours on 25 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 24 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Umm Qasr, Artawi, Busayyah, Basrah, Salman and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0905 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1430 hours on 26 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 30 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS aircraft and 6 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Lasaf, Ansab and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1725 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0910 hours on 28 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft and 6 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Ma'aniyah, Diwaniyah South, Busayyah, Lasaf and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1530 hours on 29 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 72 missions, 49 of them from Saudi territory and 23 from Kuwaiti territory, and were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Samawah, Lasaf, Ushbayjah, Salman, Amarah, Ali al-Gharbi, Nu'maniyah, Kut, Karbala', Razzazah, Najaf and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1645 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1730 hours on 30 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 97 missions, 64 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft and 33 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Afak, Hashimiyah, Taqtaqanah, Najaf, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Jalibah, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Salman, Shinafiyah, Qurnah and Ukhaydir areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0100 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1730 hours on 31 October 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions from Saudi territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Afak, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1825 hours, drove them off.